

Ultra Violet

by Silver Sterling

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Summary: The reader is an OC from Earth who somehow ends up in Earthland set after the GMG arc. However with her new found magic powers she has to hide a dark secret from her new guildmates. Slightly slow start to introduce the reader's character and set the scene. Rated M for language. Gray x Reader in later chapters.

1. Prologue

****Prologue â€" Reader's POV****

"Oh shit."

Yeah, that'll help you escape this whopping great forest vulcan that for some reason wants you to be its wife, I thought to myself.

Swearing and using sarcasm to make a joke of serious situations. That was me all over. But somehow in this new world I had stumbled into my coping strategy didn't seem quite up to par. Well, to be fair, life-threatening circumstances weren't the everyday norm where I came from.

I'm not quite sure how I got here, to Earthland. In my world people don't believe in magic and those who do worship Gods and mix up potions in accordance to the moon. I'm not saying I didn't want to believe it existed or that I never tried any of those 'spells' I had found on the internet (some actually workedâ€" or maybe it was a coincidence) but in my world what we knew and trusted were cold hard facts and science.

However I got to a part of my life where I was desperate. I was surrounded by darkness. Every turn I took, every new step forward, every door of opportunity I attempted to open.. After a few weeks or months it all ended up back where I started: enveloped in darkness,

curled up as tight as I could manage under the covers of my bed. Seems childish right? As if somehow if I was hidden from people, my 'family', my 'friends' I could escape the immense pressure and ridicule I felt every time I saw other people. I didn't want to be a 'problem child' or be seen as a broken record that everyone was supposed to check on and find different 'help' to glue my cracks together. Barely. So I could be presentable to the common eye so I could seem 'okay' and 'normal'.

This all sounds so _emo_ right?

Embarrassing really. I know a lot of people wanted to help and genuinely cared about me but somehow it wasn't _enough_. _I wanted, no, needed to escape. All I could feel was the darkness thickening around me and pressing in, leaking into my heart, my brain, my soul.

That's when it happened.

All the remaining hope and longing for freedom from this endless cycle I was living in turned into light. It overwhelmed the darkness, not just my own but my family's, and the neighbour's and apparently everyone within a mile's radius. By the way if you think this is some sappy cliché metaphor, it's not.

I had somehow taken a shit tonne (yes extremely technical here) of magic power into my body and it had built up inside me and released as an immensely bright light emanating from my whole body. But I didn't know at the time what had caused it or how I did that.

And of course, I freaked the fuck out.

I now had this new sensation of power rippling throughout my entire being but no clue how to control it. I realised that if someone had been in the same room as me, I would have blinded them. Plus there was no telling if I could make something more dangerous or even deadly.

What if they found out it was me that made that light? There was an investigation going on to find out the cause of what some were calling natural phenomena, others were saying it was linked to a UFO and there were even conspiracies that it was some kind of terrorist warning shot.

All this panic and speculation because of _me_. _Surely they would pin-point the source of that light to my house soon and what if they asked me about it. If I told them surely no one would believe meâ€¦ Or if they did, I'd be subject to hundreds of terrifying medical examinations and tests. No, I couldn't go through that. I had no choice but to escape.

The next few days were a nauseating blur. I gathered what I thought I might need on this journey and said my last words to my blissfully ignorant family. That was painful. I still feel a cold steel knife in the chest even thinking about them. But I did what's best for them, to keep them safe. Right?

After a few weeks of travelling aimlessly my emotions started to rise up inside of me. Whirlwinds of anger, frustration and fear tore straight through my core until I could no longer control my body. It

felt different to last time but I knew something was going to happen. Again.

The last thing I remember was a bright flash of light consuming me, almost forcibly pulling me from the world I called home. So that's how I ended up in Earthland. It's been a year since I came here and I've learnt that I have a lot magic power inside of me and that it naturally comes out as light, so that's my magic. Well kind of â€œ

Anyway since coming here I've just wondered around, finding all the books I can on magic and trying to train or rather tame my magic so I can actually use it to fight and hopefully join a guild. I can't use much of my magic power without becoming exhausted though so I'm still pretty weak. Almost useless. Almost.

2. Chapter 1

Chapter One

"Did you hear that?" asked Natsu. His dragon slayer instincts easily picking up what he knew the others in his team couldn't.

"Obviously not flame brain, what are you talking about?" sneered the dark haired mage to his left.

"Well ice princess â€œ" he suddenly cut off and began sprinting through the forest eventually calling over his shoulder "Someone's in trouble, are you coming?" The rest of team Natsu rolled their eyes simultaneously but soon followed hot on his heels.

"Stop," he whispered as they came to the edge of a large clearing, positioning himself so he wouldn't be seen by the pair fighting in the centre of the grass "lets only butt in if she really gets in trouble, I can sense a strong magic power coming from her and I know my pride would be hurt if strangers came and stole my fight." The group nodded silently and Lucy smiled at the unusual sensitivity from Natsu, even if it was only because the situation involved a fight.

She turned back to watch the fight in front of her. A fairly small girl probably in her mid to late teens was hunched over, panting heavily and defending against a huge forest vulcan. This was a situation Lucy knew well; for some reason the gorilla-like monsters were very interested in having a human mate and unfortunately since they were stubborn, once they decided they wanted you there was no choice but to fight.

The vulcan leered over the girl.

"Rethinking your decision now darling? Just relax and co-" he was interrupted by a flurry of attacks in the stomach, winding him. However the girl looked pretty worse for wear,

"Shutâ€|.upâ€|" she wheezed, the disgust and resentment obvious in her voice. Recovered from the previous attack the vulcan got up and gave her a sharp kick in the ribs.

"If you're not willing to come with me nicely, there are other ways I

can take you home." he spat following up his threat by stomping on the girl and grinning as her scream ripped through the forest startling the surrounding wildlife.

"Pleaseâ€|stopâ€|" she breathed then with great pain evident in her voice she continued "I won't able to control myself, pleaseâ€|" Natsu glanced at the faces beside him, no reactions, she must have been too quiet for the others to hear her. _What does she mean she won't be able to control herself? I mean with that much magic power it couldn't be hard to beat a lowly forest vulcan. Why was she holding back? Her words didn't sound like a threat more nervous, afraid even, but of what.._

"Guys, something's wrong. I think we should help." The group turned towards Natsu, puzzled at his sudden change in attitude. Gray however still had his eyes fixed on the girl, _what was she doing?_ Then suddenly her body began to glow with an eerie purple light. Her eyes began to close and her face was a mixture of terror and relief.

"Oi you there! Yeah, you Glorified monkey! What dyou think you're doing?" shouted Natsu, catching the vulcan's attention. The girl stopped glowing and lay limp on the ground. _Did anyone else see that?_ Thought Gray _I probably just imagined it, you see weird lights when you stare at light for too long and she was using light magic.. Yeah that must be it.._

3. Chapter 2

****Chapter Two****

The girl awoke to a sea of concerned faces surrounding her. _Who are these people? What the fuck happened?_ There were two boys she vaguely recognised and two girls bent over her, concern etched into their faces. Behind them was another woman with a cascade of crimson hair flowing down her back.

"Erza Scarlet?" (y/n) said in confusion. The armoured woman bent down to look at the small girl and her stern expression softened into a gentle smile. "Umm sorry but what happened? I can't remember." the girl asked nervously. She was easily embarrassed and not happy about being in this situation anyway let alone having the famous Erza Scarlet see her in this mess. _Great._

"Well," replied the guy with messy pink hair, scratching the back of his head in embarrassment, "we came to save you from that forest vulcan but as soon as you saw us you went all badass and finished him in seconds!" he laughed.

"Oh.." yeah that sounded about right. Accepting help from others was something (y/n) avoided at all costs, it made her feel like a burden. _Wait did he say in seconds? Oh fuck what if I used __**that..**__. I can't remember._ "Badass isn't normally a word used to describe me, dyou remember what attacks I used? Seems stupid but it'd be useful to know for my erm.. training."

"If I remember correctly your eyes turned completely grey and then you said something like 'info red' was it? I don't know, some massive molten ball that got that idiot really excited." answered the mage with dark, piercing eyes. Somehow during his explanation he had lost

several layers of clothing.

"Ah x-ray eyes and infrared, thank god." (y/n) breathed. She'd controlled herself enough to keep her secret safe. For now at least.

"If you don't mind me asking, why did you wait until then to use those attacks and finish him off? I sense a large amount of magic power from you so you probably could have done that at the beginning and saved yourself a lot of time and injury." Erza's concerned words made the light mage blush. Although Erza was rumoured to be incredibly strong and harsh, her attitude was completely different here. Almost motherly or more like a big sister since she could have only been a few years older than (y/n).

"Ah well I'm training and I guess x-rays seem like a bit of a cheat so I'm trying to learn how to fight effectively without using them." she explained quickly. _When are they going to leave? This is really awkward._

"X-ray eyes.. Oh so you're like Bickslow and can see souls!" exclaimed the pink haired mage "I'm Natsu by the way."

"See souls?" _What the fuck?_ "Um no it's like when you break your arm or something and go to the hospital to get an x-ray so they canâ€| she trailed off seeing five confused faces look at her. _That's right. They don't have anything like that here. When they break an arm they just deal with it and I don't think I've even seen a hospital or doctor's surgery here. _"Sorry I forgot. You don't have science here do you, everything's justâ€| magic."

With that (y/n) got up and started to walk away briskly.

"Thanks for your help" she muttered before breaking into a run. No one here knows anything about her past, no one would believe her anyway so what was the point? She had to get away as fast as her injuries would let her. _Fucking vulcan. He had to step on me didn't he? Without that I'd have a few more ribs intact and ARGH-_

She bent over, retching vigorously. _This may be more serious than I thoughtâ€|_

"Hey!" _Not again can't those guys just leave me alone. Was my sprinting away not a clear enough message? What's with this guy anyway he's just casually half naked. _"Look everyone was trying to hide it before but we're really worried about you and from the state you're in now I'm gonna take a wild guess and say you're seriously injured." His cold, distant composure from before was gone. He still wasn't overly emotional or caring but panic was all over his face.

"Look buddy, I don't need your help okay. I'm fine and-" she was cut off with more violent heaving. "I..canâ€|cope.." (y/n) barely managed to utter the words to the completely unimpressed mage facing her.

"What's your name?" he asked.

"(Y/n)"

"Okay (Y/n) at the moment you are acting even more single-minded and idiotic than Natsu and that's saying something." He paused, "I don't know what you think is going to happen if you let us help you but you won't be in our debt or anything. We want to help you get back on your feet, just because. That's the mind-set of Fairy Tail."

_Fairy Tail? Now that I think about it that's Erza's guild. The number one guild in Fiore. So who is this guy? Was he in the Grand Magic Games team? I only remember Titania, Salamander and Laxus. The ones with unimaginable power. The ones I need to become like or even surpass if I'm ever going to get home. _

Seeing the small mage's face screwed up in concentration the teen opposite smiled.

"I'm Gray, Gray Fullbuster. I'm an ice make mage. Don't worry if you don't know me, I don't have as much of a reputation as Erza or Natsu but we're pretty much on the same level." He laughed. "Okay well normally I'm evenly matched with Natsu but if you really piss him off then no one can stop him."

Ignoring the boy's attempt at friendly conversation (y/n) blurted out,

"Why won't you leave me alone? I'm obviously not normal here and I'm so fucking weak." She tried to hold back tears but was unsuccessful, "It'd be a bad idea for you to be involved with me, please just go." Her voice trembled and was on the verge of begging now.

"Sorry this is for your own good." Gray half-smiled before giving her a powerful punch in the stomach, "You can explain later, but for now you need rest." (Y/n) slowly lost consciousness and slumped in the ice mage's strong arms. _You bastard.._

4. Chapter 3

****Chapter Three****

Yet again, (y/n) awoke with another unfamiliar face beside her in a foreign setting. _Is it normal for the number one guild to kidnap people? Jesus this place is messed up._

She studied her surroundings to prepare for an escape. She was in what must have been the infirmary of the guild with a few empty, stripped beds around her. There were medical supplies in a cabinet on the far wall and a few bottles and herbs on the table next to her. To her right a young girl around twelve was sleeping in chair pulled up close to (y/n)'s bed. (Y/n) vaguely recognised the dark blue haired girl from before, she looked so young in her sleep.

A child on the guild's strongest team? Not to mention the rest of the team were probably among the youngest in the guild. Teens stronger than adults. Maybe they could help me out after all. What I need to get home is to be able to harness a huge amount of power! No forget it I can't drag anyone else into this.

"Ah (Y/n)-san you're awake, thank goodness" uttered a timid voice "Um I'm Wendy, I hope you don't mind but used my healing magic on you so um hopefully your wounds should be better by now.."

"You didn't have to do that I can heal myself with stuff in my bag.. Where the FUCK is my bag?" Wendy flinched at the swearing. "Sorry, everything I own is in that bag it's kind of important." _That had all my money, medicine and clothes in it. Not to mention the only pictures I had of my family. I'm so fucked._

(Y/n) sighed and turned away from the startled dragon slayer. This was too much for her to handle. Everything she had to help with training, everything she used to get through the last year, everything she had left from her home, her family. Gone.

She sighed and drifted back to sleep, another tried and tested coping method she used along with sarcasm.

"Master, could you come and look at this?" called Mirajane. She had been instructed to both nurse and guard the patient since they had been warned the light mage in the infirmary would try and escape.

A surreal sight stood before her. The young mage's forehead was bathed in a golden light and above her head blurry images were projected surrounded by the same golden glow. Every now and then the subject would come into focus: Natsu shouting, Erza bending down concerned, Wendy panicking in the infirmary, Gray half-smiling.

"Hmm it seems that these are her dreams.." pondered Master Makarov who had just entered. "This happens sometimes for light mages or illusionists, too much magic power builds up in their body and it has to escape somehow. During the time they're awake it's easily controlled however when unconscious the magic leaves their body naturally. In this case whatever she's thinking is given form as images above her head. I've never seen this much magic escaping from someone before, keep an eye on her would you Mira." Mirajane nodded silently shocked that the girl had already recovered enough magic power for there to be an excess.

"She's an unusual one. Persuade her to join the guild if you can, it'd be easier to keep track of her that way." Makarov called over his shoulder as he left the room. "You brats always keep me on my toes eh?" he muttered to himself.

5. Chapter 4

****This is the last chapter I'm doing of description and setting up. Sorry it's a bit dull but from the next chapter it'll be a lot more action based and of course some Gray x reader as well. Reviews would be helpful as I don't know if this format is easy to read with it being in 3****rd**** person and italics as thoughts from different characters.****

****Chapter Four****

"Okay fine! If that'll get you off my back I'll join although I'm not happy about it." After two hours of 'persuading' (y/n) finally understood the rumours about the devil, Mirajane. You would never have guessed by looking at the petite, cheerful woman that she could turn into an absolute demon. Literally.

"Where would you like your guild mark?" she asked sweetly. (Y/n)

shuddered at the sudden change of character and gestured to the area near the top of her chest bone, where a necklace would hang. Mira stamped and a pale violet mark appeared in the centre of (y/n)'s chest.

She turned to scrutinise her appearance in the mirror next to the door. The independent act she put on was just that, an act. Longing to have good friends have somewhere to belong again always lingered in the back of her mind. Not that these kidnapping maniacs would have been her first choice.. Still she was pretty self-conscious and wanted to look presentable for her future family.

Her appearance had changed a lot since she arrived in Earthland. After discovering she could use her light magic to manipulate colours, she started experimenting and of course after _that_ started causing trouble it was a great way to disguise herself from angry villagers. At the moment her hair was a deep lavender and her eyes were a stunning forget-me-not blue with a deep stormy rim. The dress Mirajane had given her was not her usual style; it was short, strappy and had frills around the bottom for fucks sake. (Y/n) wasn't impressed especially as her usual wardrobe was completely black but thanked Mira all the same.

I have a feeling I don't want to get on her bad side.. she thought anxiously.

Tentatively she took her first steps into the guildhall, she was positive that all eyes would be on the weird new girl. Luckily a fight seemed to be taking place _inside_ the guildhall?! Surely that can't be allowed._ Fire and ice clashed in the air and she noticed the same half-naked mage from before. _He's the ice, so who's the fire?_ She saw a flash of pink and a white scaly scarf trail past her. _Natsu? They're on the same team and they fight this seriously. Rivals maybe.._ Fairy Tail would take a little while to understand she realised before being shoved out of the way by an intimidating man with more piercings in his eyebrows than she had all together.

"Oi Salamander!" he roared "Let me get in on this, I've been itching for a fight ever since you got back." And with that he promptly joined the brawl. A few more members managed to get sucked in to the whirlwind of fire, ice and iron. Soon plants, swords, magic bullets, sand and even some freaky looking wooden sculptures were flying across the room.

I've never seen this many types of magic at once, maybe I can finally meet someone else who uses light magic.

By this time most of the guild was involved in the fight. Debris from broken tables, chairs and beer glasses was strewn across the guild floor.

What have I got myself into? _Maybe I should leave now while Mirajane's distracted. _The white-haired beauty was currently sandwiched between a man covered in bulging muscles and a woman wearing glasses and heels who was yelling something about being a real fairy at Erza.

"Yo (y/n), leaving so soon?" Gray raised his eyebrows at the newcomer while swiftly blocking her escape route.

"You do realise your boxers are literally on fire right now and you're standing here casually talking to me? You must be into some really kinky shit." She scoffed, laughing as the ice mage's charcoal eyes widened at the sudden realisation. "Anyway seems like you've got a little situation to sort out so I'm going home." She smirked before it dawned on her that she had no home or place to stay while she was forced to work in Magnolia.

"Seems like you've got yourself a little situation." Gray laughed, his confidence returning once he saw her flustered state. "Tell you what, I actually have a spare room that I wouldn't mind you using. But I'll only offer it to you on one condition." (Y/n) nodded begrudgingly. Even though she didn't want to be in this guild and so far Gray seemed to be a weird stripping exhibitionist, she knew she wouldn't get any other offers. Not for tonight at least.

"I want you to fight me."

A look of confusion spread across the light mage's face as she tried to work out how this could possibly benefit Gray in any way.

"I don't have to win? Just fight?" The cocky teen nodded eagerly after all if he was going to live with someone he wanted to know what their magic was really like.

(Y/n) shrugged her shoulders. She had nothing to lose and taking frustration about Fairy Tail kidnapping her out on a guild member made sense. Just because she was weak compared to her own standards didn't mean she would lose easily. Actually her determination was one of her best traits and the only thing that had kept her going after this long away from home.

"What are you waiting for, let's go!" shouted the ice mage as he ran past her to what she assumed was the battle field.

_If you can't beat them, join them. _Letting out an audible sigh (y/n) ran to catch up with her new opponent.

6. Chapter 5

****Chapter Five****

A small crowd had gathered to watch the fight and were dotted around the edge of a large field behind the guild. (Y/n) realised that how she was treated in the guild would completely depend on this fight. First impressions were vital. She scanned the group on the side-lines recognising Mirajane and team Natsu. There was also a small boy around Wendy's age standing with two old men and a woman who appeared to have brought a whole barrel of beer with her. Slightly further back a woman in a thick fur coat hid behind a bush twirling her blue curls as she stared longingly at Gray.

"I'm not going to go easy on you, even if you are a woman." _Great. Here comes the trash talk._

"There's no if about it." She laughed. An old fashioned mind-set like that meant he would have hopefully underestimated her and besides she had a secret weapon. This was going to be an interesting fight.

The two mages squared each other up. Both had narrowed their eyes into an intimidating glare and (y/n) noticed that even now, when the adrenaline was rushing through both of them, there was no sparkle in Gray's eyes. They were sharply focused on her yet they were dull, almost lifeless. _What's with this guy? Did he fake that excitement and worry before? Honestly, looking into his eyes you would expect him to have the emotional range of a teaspoon. _

Taking the initiative to make the first move, Gray slid his right fist into the centre of his palm and took a deep breath before lunging at his opponent.

"Ice make: LANCE!"

Seven lances hurtled towards his opponent. There was no way she could dodge it.

"INFRARED!"

The incoming attack was engulfed by a molten red sphere and quickly shattered into chunks of ice and steam. Unfortunately the infrared hadn't been able to completely destroy Gray's attack and she had used up more magic than him by blocking head on. It looked like she had no choice but to break out her secret weapon.

"Ice make: HAMMER"

A smile played on (y/n)'s lips at the weapon flew at her.

"Microwave."

The hammer partially evaporated and the rest fell to form a puddle at the young mage's feet. Most of the spectators looked confused not knowing what just happened.

Gray's face was a picture. _I thought she was a light mage? Whatever that was it wasn't light and didn't use half as much magic power as before. What the hell is this girl?_

Using the falter in her opponent's confidence and concentration (y/n) launched a huge ball of infrared at him. A direct hit! She decided it was more ethical to recover magic power whilst Gray was down than attack him on the ground. Surprisingly he sprung to his feet smirking.

"This just got interesting." He called. _If it only just got interesting why did he even want a fight? _(Y/n) stared, exasperated at the mage's constant stream of comments. Although he had taken a considerable amount of damage there was a noticeable increase in his spirit and magic power.

"Ice make: ARROWS"

A swarm of arrows shot at her from all directions but that wasn't all.

"ICE CANNON"

So that was his tactic. Overwhelming (y/n) with so much ice she couldn't possibly melt it all.

_Challenge accepted. _

A wave of magic wiped out all the surrounding arrows however the ice cannonballs were still racing towards the small girl. Turning to face them head on, she held out her hands and her body tensed. The crowd murmured,

'What is this magic?' 'Is she going to try and catch Gray's attack?' 'Isn't her magic power going to be used up soon...' They were sceptical of the new mage's strange magic and behaviour however they would admit it was impressive to stop an attack from Gray in its tracks.

A massive chunk of ice was now on a direct path to the mysterious mage's face but she still did not flinch. As it passed over her outstretched arms the ball crackled then split and scattered horizontally in front of the 'light' mage. Whilst pouring all her attention into the protective barrier in front of her, (y/n) hadn't noticed a colossal, barred cage forming around her.

"That's not melting anytime soon," Gray called gesturing to the thick ice surrounding his opponent, "I wonder how you'll vaporise my attacks when that could cause the whole thing to collapse on top of you."

Frantically searching for an escape, (y/n) began to panic as a new wave of ferocious attacks began. Dodging what she could, she decided the only way out was to use a lot of magic and make a small hole in the roof. She used the dents Gray's attacks had made in the bars as footholds and climbed to the top of the prison which would be hidden from view.

A small figure jumped through the roof of the cage and ran towards Gray. Dodging left and right the girl pulled in her arms to create a fiery sphere and chucked it at the ice mage. A counterattack had finally begun and the pair seemed evenly matched. The newcomer was more nimble than she looked but her attacks were slightly too slow resulting in neither mage being able to land a hit.

Finally a hunk of ice ripped through the figure opposite Gray. The girl smiled as her body dematerialised into golden light. _A copy? No an illusion she must be manipulating light._

However this realisation was too late. A flurry of attacks hit him from behind, small ruby spheres pummelling his back. Gray spun around and saw the purple-haired mage walking towards him slowly. There was still quite a distance between them so the ice mage decided to resume his overwhelming wall of ice hoping to put her back on the defensive.

(Y/n) didn't even blink. Hiding in the top of the ice cage had given her a chance to recover vital magic power and she had carefully constructed a spherical shield of microwaves around herself to completely nullify Gray's ice. For everyone else, it looked like she was effortlessly carving a path through the ice without even lifting a finger.

"Ice make: UNLIMITED!"

"If this move could beat Rufus it has to be overwhelming for her right?" asked a voice from the crowd.

It better. Melting all my ice has got to use up a lot of magic and focus so I won't give her another chance to attack.

Just then a flash of red sped towards the ice mage and hit him forcefully in the chest. (Y/n) had used the centre of the spiral his ice created to send her attack directly to him. Although the initial shock was great, her attack power had decreased so the teen was able to get up and quickly resume his offence.

By now the 'light' mage was a few metres away from Gray. Signs of strain from keeping up her magic barrier were evident on her face but she was obviously not going to back down. Both mages knew that if the battle carried on like this then it would be more a competition of stamina than power.

(Y/n) was still slowly walking towards Gray. Her eyes narrowed and her facial expression hardened. With a steely glare worthy of rivalling Erza's, (y/n)'s eyes began to glow as her irises faded to form two bright, white orbs. Gray noticed her guild mark was also white and the area surrounding it had begun to turn a sickly shade of violet. As if it was leaking out of her guild mark, the colour began to spread through her veins like a poison and her breathing became slower. A dark purple magic had gathered around her body flowing through her hair and ruffling her clothes. This didn't seem right.

"(Y/n)?"

Gray's concerned voice rung out in the air and somehow reached the young mage. She blinked a few times. The magic disappeared and her body turned back to normal.

"Gray.."

Uttering her opponents name she fell. Once again collapsing unconscious into the ice mage's strong arms. The crowd was silent. Since the pair had been surrounded in a raging storm of ice and water no one had seen what happened. Gray's face was pale and the weakened girl was held tightly in his arms. Her clothes were ripped and all the colour had been drained from her body.

"Did you win?" Natsu blatantly broke the silence. Lucy took his arm and shook her head. From the look on Gray's face, now was not the time to be celebrating.

"I'll take her home." Gray mumbled, his eyes still wide and worried from whatever had just happened. The others looked on silently as he manoeuvred the lilac-haired girl onto his back and trudged down the path to town.

End
file.